



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 7, 2006

Ms. Kathleen Peterson
2721 Losee Road
Suite D
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Dear Ms. Peterson:

Thank you for your letter and recommendations of June 19, 2006. I value the input received from the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board and have been impressed by willingness of the members to tackle some of the difficult issues that face the Environmental Management program.

Your recommendation concerning incorporating lessons learned from past site closures into future site closure plans and activities is a case in point. Your review of closure activities and your recommendations are extremely valuable.

I have asked Dr. Inés Triay, Chief Operating Officer, to ensure that your recommendations are considered and incorporated where appropriate in the development of future closure plans.

I look forward to visiting with you again at your next Chairs' meeting in September in Santa Fe. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Melissa A. Nielson, Director of Public & Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James A. Rispoli", is positioned above the printed name.

James A. Rispoli
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:
Inés Triay, EM-3

Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board

**Fernald
Hanford
Idaho**

**Nevada
Northern New Mexico
Oak Ridge**

**Paducah
Rocky Flats
Savannah River**

June 19, 2006

Mr. James A. Rispoli
EM-1/DOE-HQ Forrestal Building
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Rispoli:

Incorporation of Lessons Learned in Future Site Closures

The EM Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs wish to acknowledge, congratulate, and thank all those who have been involved in the tireless, consistent, and thorough work of the Fernald and Rocky Flats SSABs. Past and current members, along with agency and contractor support, have contributed immensely to the success of the Fernald and Rocky Flats Closure Projects and, in the process, have provided valuable guidance and experience for future Office of Environmental Management (EM) site cleanup and closure.

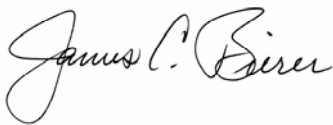
To take full advantage of this experience, the Chairs request that EM ensure the following lessons provided by the Fernald and Rocky Flats SSABs are considered and incorporated in policies that ultimately will guide closure at other EM sites.

- A transparent, open, and consultative decision-making process among the Department of Energy (DOE), regulators, contractors, and the community is critical in fostering cleanup success and site closure.
- The Chairs believe the Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) legislation for Fernald, Rocky Flats, and Mound was seriously flawed. In order to improve the process in the future, EM should work with other DOE landlord programs (e.g., the Office of Legacy Management) to ensure that continuing stakeholder involvement entities: (1) are Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered to allow operation in an advisory role; (2) are scoped to address all potential future long term stewardship, cleanup, and public involvement issues at the closure site; (3) are fully representative of the community; and (4) build on the experience of the local EM SSAB (e.g., decision-making processes, membership, scope of issues, etc.).
- EM should engage other DOE landlord programs early in planning to ensure a smooth and sound site transition from EM.
- EM policy should facilitate active engagement between other DOE landlord programs and the local EM SSAB. This should include EM encouraging and facilitating the new landlord's consideration and adoption of local SSAB recommendations.


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- Requirements for long-term public education and active public involvement should be included in institutional control plans for the closure site as they were at Fernald.
- Development of accessible and understandable risk communication tools is critical if contamination is left behind at the site.
- The local EM SSAB should remain active and involved until regulatory closure is complete.

Again, the Chairs congratulate all those involved in the success of the Fernald and Rocky Flats site closures.



Jim Bierer, Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board



Kerry Trammell, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board



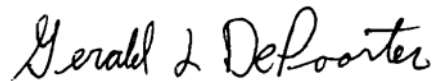
Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board



Chad Kerley, Chair
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Citizens Advisory Board



Bill Flanery, Co-Chair
Idaho National Laboratory Site EM
Citizens Advisory Board



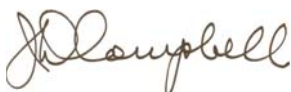
Gerald DePoorter, Chair
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board



Kathleen Peterson, Chair
Nevada Test Site Citizens Advisory Board



Karen Patterson, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory
Board



J.D. Campbell, Chair
Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Charles Anderson, EM-2
Doug Frost, EM-13

Frank Marcinowski, EM-10
Melissa Nielson, EM-13